

PENDING CLAIMS AS REWRITTEN AND NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 7; and add new claims 19-36, as indicated below. A version with markings to show changes is provided as Appendix C.

JWB17
A26
1. (Once Amended) In a wireless communication system, a method for performing handoff comprising:
at a first station, determining when a handoff is necessary;
receiving an indication of a link quality of signals transmitted by said first station;
and
selectively performing said handoff in accordance with said indication of the link quality.

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A27
3. (Once Amended) The method Claim 1 wherein said first station is a subscriber station and selectively performing said handoff comprises:
selecting a base station to transmit to said subscriber station;
determining in accordance with said indication of the link quality whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy; and
performing said handoff to said selected base station when signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said selected base station with sufficient energy.

4. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein performing said handoff comprises transmitting a message indicating the identity of said selected base station.

A28
6. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 4 wherein transmitting said message comprises spreading a message indicative of a requested rate by a signal indicative of said selected base station.

Ins 837
7. (Once Amended) The method Claim 1 wherein said first station is a subscriber station and selectively performing said handoff comprises:

A 28
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determining that a base station used to communicate with said subscriber station continues to have the strongest signal received by said subscriber station;

determining in accordance with said indication of the link quality whether signals transmitted by said subscriber station are being received by said determined base station with sufficient energy; and

performing said handoff to an alternative base station when signals transmitted by said subscriber station are not being received by said determined base station with sufficient energy.

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19. (New) An apparatus comprising:
a memory configured to store an indication of the quality of a received reverse link signal provided by one or more base stations; and

a processor, coupled with the memory, configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the one or more base stations according to the indication of the quality of the received reverse link signal.

A 29
20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 further comprising:
an energy calculator, coupled with the processor, configured to calculate the energy of a pilot signal from each of the one or more base stations;

wherein the processor is configured to determine the selected base station according to the calculated energy of the pilot signals.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the processor is configured to select a rate of transmission for the selected base station according to the calculated energy of the pilot signals.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising a spreading element, coupled with the processor, configured to spread a symbol indicative of the requested rate of transmission by a signal indicative of the selected base station.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the indication of the quality of the received reverse link signal comprises power control commands from each of the one or more base stations.

In B5
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the power control commands requesting the subscriber station to decrease its transmission energy are indicative that the reverse link signal is being received.

A 29
Cont
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the power control commands requesting the subscriber station to increase its transmission energy are indicative that the reverse link signal is not being received.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the indication of the quality of the received reverse link signal comprises subscriber-station rate requests from the one or more base stations.

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27. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the indication of the quality of the received reverse link signal comprises a message, from each of the one or more base stations, indicating the average quality of the received reverse link signal.

28. (New) A communication system comprising:
a subscriber station for transmitting a signal;
a plurality of base stations, each base station configured to receive the signal and transmit an indication of the quality of the received signal; and

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wherein the subscriber station is configured to permit a handoff to a selected base station of the plurality of base stations according to the indication of the quality of the received signal.

29. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein:
each of the plurality of base stations are configured to transmit a pilot signal;
the subscriber station is configured to calculate the energy of the pilot signal from each of the plurality of base stations and to determine the selected base station according to the calculated energy of the pilot signals.

30. (New) The communication system of claim 29, wherein the subscriber station is configured to select a rate of transmission for the selected base station according to the calculated energy of the pilot signals.

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31. (New) The communication system of claim 30, wherein the subscriber station is configured to spread a symbol indicative of the requested rate of transmission by a signal indicative of the selected base station.

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32. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the indication of the quality of the received signal comprises power control commands from each of the plurality of base stations.

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33. (New) The communication system of claim 32, wherein the power control commands requesting the subscriber station to decrease its transmission energy are indicative that the signal is being received.

34. (New) The communication system of claim 32, wherein the power control commands requesting the subscriber station to increase its transmission energy are indicative that the signal is not being received.

35. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the indication of the quality of the received reverse link signal comprises subscriber-station rate requests from each of the plurality of base stations.

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cont* 36. (New) The communication system of claim 28, wherein the indication of the quality of the received signal comprises a message, from each the plurality of base stations, indicating the average quality of the received signal.
